



# Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

April 2014

Volume 33 Number 4

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date: Monday, April 21, 2014**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

**Location: Medford Public Library**

**Program: Election of Chequamegon Bird Club Officers**

**Bird I.D. – Get Ready for the Migration everyone**

April Program:

## **Bird I.D. – Get Ready for the Migration**

Our spring migrants have been gradually returning, and it won't be long before we're seeing shorebirds, warblers, tanagers, vireos, flycatchers, and a host of other birds. At our April meeting we will once again have an opportunity to practice our i.d. skills, both by sight and by sound, using one or more on-line birding sites. Bring your field guides. Everyone has enjoyed this type of meeting in the past, and we all learn a lot from it.

## **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration – HELP NEEDED!**

Help celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 10. The Bird Club is once again sponsoring the event at Perkinstown Winter Sports Area. We are receiving financial help from the Miller Dam Lake Association, which is sponsoring a bus for a birding tour around Miller Dam Flowage. We have also received generous financial support from the Taylor County Sportsman's Club and Taylor County Tourism.

To make this a success, we need volunteer help from members! Attendance has increased each year, and attendees have been highly complimentary about our celebration. Any participation or volunteer effort you can contribute will help ensure this year's event is once again well-received by the public.

Take a look at the schedule of events on page 2, and let us know how you would like to help. Whether you

## **Taylor County Outdoor Youth Expo**

The Taylor County Outdoor Youth Expo will be held Friday, May 16. This is the seventh year of this annual event, which is organized by the Taylor County Sportsman's Club. Over 300 fifth-grade students from across this area, including Taylor and Price Counties, have an exciting and enjoyable day visiting each of the twenty-plus "camps" that feature conservation and other outdoor activities! It takes a lot of volunteers to put this on – last year there were nearly 150 volunteers representing twenty-nine organizations.

The Chequamegon Bird Club has been a participant since the start. Connie Decker has done a great job each year heading the Bird Club effort, and other club members have helped each year. If you would like to be part of this rewarding day, contact Connie (715-654-5819).

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# International Migratory Bird Day



**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**KIDS &  
ADULTS**

**Saturday  
May 10  
Perkinstown  
Winter Sports Area  
6 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

*Hosted by the  
Chequamegon Bird Club*

WARBLERS

WOOD-  
PECKERS

EAGLES

DUCKS

+Free

**Birding by Bus  
- Miller Dam Area**

SWANS

SHORE-  
BIRDS

*Sponsored by Miller Dam  
Lake Association*

## CELEBRATE BIRDS

### Throughout the Day:

- **Displays**
- **Activities**
  - o Match Your Wingspan
  - o Scavenger Hunt
  - o Geo-caching
- **Crafts**
  - o Bird Masks, Paper Roll Binoculars, Bird Silhouette Cut-outs, & more

*(Schedule adjustments may be made if necessary)*

**FOOD** **DOOR PRIZES**

### *SPONSORED BY:*

Chequamegon Bird Club  
Taylor County Sportsmen's Club  
Miller Dam Lake Association  
Taylor County Tourism

### Morning Activities:

- 6 a.m. Birdwatching Walk for Early Birds
- 7:30 a.m. Birdwatching Walk
- 9 a.m. Wildflower I.D. & Birdwatching
- 10:30 a.m. Buying & Using Binoculars
- 11 a.m. Butterflies & Other Insects

**Lunch & Bird Videos:** Noon to 1:00 p.m.

### Afternoon Activities

- 1-4 p.m. Free Bird Bus to Miller Dam Area  
*(sponsored by Miller Dam Lake Assn.)*

### At the Sports Area

- 1-4 p.m. Bird Hurdles Game for All Ages
- 1 p.m. Bird Songs & Calls
- 2 p.m. How to Identify Birds
- 3 p.m. Bird Houses & Feeders
- 4 p.m. Why Birds Matter

More info:

[www.ChequamegonBirdClub.org/cbcimbd.htm](http://www.ChequamegonBirdClub.org/cbcimbd.htm)

[info@ChequamegonBirdClub.org](mailto:info@ChequamegonBirdClub.org) or 715-748-3160



## Bird Reports (February 18 – March 17, 2014)

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Checklist observers: *Connie Decker, Ken Luepke, Joan and Joe Rickert, and Cam Scott.*

Total Number of Species Observed this month is: 42

*(Only names of observers for rare or unusual sightings are included in the list below.)*

- Canada Goose, Mallard
  - Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
  - Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk (Luepke/C. Scott), Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel
  - Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove
  - Eastern Screech Owl (Luepke), Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl
  - Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
  - Northern Shrike
  - Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
  - Horned Lark
  - Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (Rickert/)
  - American Robin
  - European Starling
  - Cedar Waxwing
  - American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (Decker), Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting
  - Northern Cardinal
  - Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch
  - House Sparrow
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### **Migratory Bird Day** (continued from p. 1)

would like to help identify birds or wildflowers on our walks or on the bus tour, assist kids with bird-related crafts, be part of one of the indoor presentations, assist with the outdoor Bird Hurdles game, or help with geo-caching or the scavenger hunt, there is a place for you to volunteer. We also need people to help serve lunch, and people to contribute cookies and bars for snacks. If you see anything on the schedule that interests you, your help would be appreciated.

People are also needed to help set up on Friday evening, May 9, and to take stuff down after the event.

If you can help for any length of time, in any capacity, please contact Cathy Mauer at [cmauer@tds.net](mailto:cmauer@tds.net) or 715-748-3160.

If you can't help this year, please come out and enjoy a fun day celebrating birds – and spread the word to family and friends.

### **Maple Fest – Saturday, April 26**

In addition to the International Migratory Bird Day Celebration and the Outdoor Youth Expo, our Bird Club takes part in other community events. The Taylor County Lions and Lionesses are sponsoring the second annual Maple Fest, and we will be having a booth there. It is a good way to spread the word about our club and about the value of birds and the joy of birdwatching to the hundreds of people who are expected to attend.

A pancake breakfast (with pure maple syrup, of course) 8 – 11 a.m. starts the day at 8 a.m. Other activities during the day include a maple syrup contest, a cooking and baking contest, cooking demonstrations, and chainsaw sculpture demonstrations. There are also activities for children.

We will need to set up our booth by 7:30 a.m. and, depending on the number of visitors, probably staff it until early afternoon. If you would like to help spread the word about birds and the Chequamegon Bird Club at this event, please call Cam Scott, 715-785-7614.



**Editor, Chequamegon Chirps**  
**N4416 Crane Dr**  
**Medford WI 54451-9376**

«FIRST\_NAME» «LAST\_NAME»  
 «STREET\_ADDRESS»  
 «CITY» «STATE» «ZIP\_CODE»

**Club Officers**

*President* – Claire Romanak  
*Vice-president* – Connie Decker  
*Secretary* – Gayle Davis  
*Treasurer* – Cam Scott

**Other Club Contacts**

*Web site:* [www.chequamegonbirdclub.org](http://www.chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
*Email:* [info@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:info@chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
*Newsletter Email:* [newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org)  
 (Cathy Mauer, editor)  
*Bird sightings:* Connie Decker



**April - May Outdoors**

- May 10 – International Migratory Bird Day Celebration, Perkinstown Winter Sports Area
- May 14 – Full Moon
- May 16 – Outdoor Youth Expo
- Birds arrive - and arrive and arrive
- Mallards, Canada Geese, Sandhill Cranes and others begin nesting
- Snakes emerge from hibernation
- White-tailed bucks growing antlers
- Little brown bats arrive
- Wildflowers blooming
- Young birds, including Bald Eagles, begin hatching

***Wisconsin Birds, A Checklist with Migration Graphs***

Stanley Temple, Robert Domagalski, John Cary  
 Published by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

This handy little booklet depicts relative species abundance for all Wisconsin species during each month. There are nineteen columns for checking off bird sightings, which can be used on field trips or perhaps keeping a weekly or monthly list at home. It can be purchased through the WSO Bookstore for \$1 including shipping and tax, or we may put in a group order if there is enough interest. 36 pages. A trifold, Wisconsin Field Checklist with 346 regular or casually occurring birds is also available.